(d) Yes, Sir. A dual pricing system for kerosene which envisaged sale of 70 per cent of the quantity of kerosene allocated to each State/Union Territory at subsidised price for distribution to weaker and vulnerable sections of society and the balance 30 per cent at non-subsidised price to others, which was introduced with effect from the 15th February, 1983, and was withdrawn with effect from the 18th March, 1983, as the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations experienced difficulties in implementing it.

Mail Delivery in Lucknow and Aligarh

541. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Lucknow and Aligarh there are now no afternoon mail deliveries and the ordinary mail is delivered only once in a day; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, it is not a fact.

(b) Question does not arise.

Modernisation of Digboi Refinery Plant

542. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of increased crude oil availability in the North East Region Government have any plan for expansion and modernisation of Digboi refinery; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the present position of the Plan and the schedule for implementation of such a Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) Modernisation of Digboi refinery is being considered and Indian Oil Corporation has been requested to prepare a feasibility Report. Details will be known after the Feasiblity Report is received.

Survey of areas for Oil and Gas

543. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING:

SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the areas which are proposed to be surveyed for oil and gas during the next two years;; and

(b) the names of the areas where digging for oil and gas is proposed to be undertaken during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The areas which are proposed to be surveyed for oil and gas during the next two years are:—

On-Land

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam Arakan fold
3. Bengal
4. Cauvery
5. Cambay
6. Ganga Valley
7. Himalayan Foothills
8. Krishna-Godavari
9. Kutch-Saurashtra
10. Rajasthan
11. Vindhyah basin
12. Upper Assam

Off-Shore

1. Andaman
2. East Coast
3. West Coast

(b) The areas are:

On-Land

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Arakan Fold belt, Bengal, Cauvery, Cambay. Ganga Valley, Himalayan Foothills, Krishna-Godavari, Kutch, Orissa, Rajasthan, Upper Assam.

Off-Shore

Andaman, Bengal, Bombay High, Cauvery, Kutch & Saurashtra, Kerala Konkon, Krishna-Godavari, North-East Coast.

Estimated Reserve of Petroleum and Natural Gas

544. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated reserve of petroleum and natural gas in the country;

(b) what is the policy of Government to tap the reserves;

(c) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission is concentrating only on known reserve areas like Bombay High; and

(d) whether Government consider that the country will be self sufficient in petroleum products by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): The estimated reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the country as on 1-1-84 were as under:

	(Million tonnes)
Crude oil	511
Natural Gas	478

(b) The general policy of the Government is to exploit the reserves with a view to optimising the production coupled with economic return.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Efforts are directed to attain self sufficiency in oil at the earliest. However, since exploration of oil is highly probablistic in nature, it would not be possible to indicate with any certitude when self sufficiency can be attained.

Setting up Gas Cracker Complex in Gujarat

545. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat applied for a Letter of Intent for setting up a Gas Cracker Complex in 1979;

(b) whether Government has taken any decision thereon; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in issuing the Letter of Intent to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) The State Govt. of Gujarat had applied for a letter of intent for setting up a gas based petrochemicals complex in November, 1978. The application was closed in March 1979 with provision for review in due course of time.

The question of issue of a letter of intent would arise after issues such as assured availability of feed stock, demand for products and availability of resources with the State Govt. are resolved.